

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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SALT

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VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

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1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY NYTIMES FRONTPAGED NIXON DEMEANOR

AFTER FUNERAL DRAWS FRENCH CRITICISM; WEDNESDAY PAPERS
FEATURED DOMESTIC STORIES; THURSDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED FALL
OF ISRAELI CABINET; NYTIMES FRONTPAGES MOSCOW STORY,
SOVIET TRADE WITH WEST INCREASED 40 PERCENT LAST YEAR.
SOME EDITORIALS ON MOSCOW RELATIONS.

1A. INSIDE TUESDAY PAPERS HAD TOKYO AP REPORTING CHINA
ASSERTS SOVIET STEPS UP ARMS RACE IN RIVALRY WITH US; ALSO
SEN. NUNN SAYS PENTAGON CALLS FOR TOO MANY SUPPORT TROOPS
IN EUROPE, SEN. KENNEDY TELLS GERMANS US TROOPS IN EUROPE
WILL BE REDUCED. NYTIMES HAD GELB WASHINGTON REPORTING
US SUSPENDS PRESSURE FOR EUROPEAN UNITY, GELB SAYING AD-
MINISTRATION CONCLUDES ONLY POSSIBLE UNITY FOR MOMENT IS
UNDER FRENCH LEADERSHIP IN OPPOSITION TO US.

1B. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAD VIENNA TALKS RECESS; ALSO
GENEVA REUTERS REPORTING NPT SESSION SET FOR MAY 1975; PLUS

LOCAL REPORTING STATE UNIVERSITY IN EXCHANGE OF UNDER-
GRADUATES WITH MOSCOW INSTITUTE. WASHPOST HAD EAST BLOC
REJECTS US REDUCTION PLAN, ALSO WARSAW PACT TALKS THIS
MONTH; PLUS BRIEF ON HOLY LOCH.

1C. THURSDAY WASHPOST HAS VIENNA STORY, WEST SEES DELAY
IN FORCE CUT; ALSO SCHLESINGER CONSIDERS TROOP CUT.
NYTIMES HAS WASHINGTON AP, SEN. BUCKLEY SAID PRESIDENT
SHOULDN'T GO TO MOSCOW WHILE IMPEACHMENTS CHARGES
PENDING.

2. TROOP REDUCTIONS. TUESDAY WASHPOST, BONN, GOSHKO
REPORTED SEN. KENNEDY AT SPEECH BEFORE GERMAN FOREIGN
POLICY ASSOCIATION, SAID THAT WHILE FUNDAMENTAL COMMIT-
MENT TO OUR ALLIANCE IS NOT IN DOUBT, AMERICA'S EUROPEAN
ALLIES MUST HELP TO ENSURE THAT BURDEN OF COMMON DEFENSES
DOESN'T FALL UNDULY ON ANY NATION. ORDERLY AND AGREED
REDUCTION OF US FORCES DURING NEXT FEW YEARS, SAID
KENNEDY, DOES NOT HAVE TO MEAN LESSENING OF US CONCERN
FOR EUROPE'S DEFENSE. WHILE SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGE DID
NOT DIFFER MARKEDLY FROM PRONOUNCEMENTS MADE BY OTHER
US OFFICIALS, ACCORDING GOSHKO, IT WAS CERTAIN TO HAVE
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ESPECIALLY STRONG IMPACT IN BONN AND OTHER WESTERN
EUROPE CAPITALS. BALTOPSUN, BONN, OISHI REPORTED KENNEDY
TOLD BONN PRESS CONFERENCE THAT MANSFIELD EFFORT TO
REDUCE US FORCES ABROAD WAS GETTING INCREASING SUPPORT
AND NEXT TIME MANSFIELD AMENDMENT COMES UP FOR VOTE,
POSSIBLY IN LATE SUMMER OR FALL, OUTCOME WILL BE VERY
CLOSE. KENNEDY ADDED OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SENATE
FAVORED STRONG AND CONTINUING US PRESENCE IN EUROPE,

THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY AT PRESENT LEVELS.

2A. TUESDAY BALOTOSUN CORDDRY REPORTED SEN. NUNN IN REPORT TO SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AS RESULT OF STUDY UNDERTAKEN AT REQUEST OF SEN. STENNIS, SAID US SHOULD DRASTICALLY CHANGE COMPOSITION OF ARMY FORCES IN EUROPE BY REDUCING ATOMIC WEAPONS STOCKPILE, CUTTING BACK ON SUPPORT TROOPS AND CREATING MORE CONVENTIONAL NON-NUCLEAR COMBAT UNITS WITH MANPOWER THUS SAVED. ARGUING WESTERN ALLIANCE HAS FULLY ADEQUATE MILITARY RESOURCES TO COUNTER-BALANCE CONVENTIONAL ARMS OF WARSAW PACT, NUNN CONTENDED ALLIANCE HAS DEPENDED TOO LONG ON NUCLEAR CRUNCH WHICH IS NOT FEASIBLE NOW THAT RUSSIA HAS NUCLEAR PARITY. NUNN TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE H HE HAS SEEN NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF NATO ARE DOING AS MUCH AS THEY SHOULD IN ALLIED DEFENSE EFFORT. NUNN SAID ESTIMATES ARE THAT PRESENT

ARMY FORCE IN GERMANY COULD SAVE 29,000 TO 60,000 MEN THROUGH CHANGES HE PROPOSES. WASHPOST HAD AP AND NYTIMES FINNEY STORY.

2B. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES LATIMES HAD VIENNA AP REPORTING NATO AND WARSAW DELEGATES HELD LAST SESSION BEFORE A FOUR-WEEK RECESS, AP ADDING WARSAW SPOKESMAN STRULAK SAID THERE WAS NO BASIC CHANGE IN THE CONFLICTING VIEWS OF THE TWO ALLIANCES ON FORCE REDUCTIONS, BUT TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE THAT TIME SPENT IN 32 SESSIONS WAS SPENT USE-FULLY.

2C. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST VIENNA HOMAN REPORTED WARSAW SPOKESMAN SAID PACT NATIONS WOULD INSIST ON SIMULTANEOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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REDUCTION OF ALL FORCES NOW STATIONED IN CENTRAL EUROPE RATHER THAN AN INITIAL WITHDRAWAL OF SUPERPOWER TROOPS AS PROPOSED BY US, STRULAK TELLING NEWSMEN QUESTION OF WHO WILL TAKE PART IN FIRST ROUND OF REDUCTIONS IS CRUCIAL ISSUE AMONG SEVERAL REAL OBSTACLES BLOCKING AN AGREEMENT, STRULAK REPLIED TO A REPORTER IT MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT LEADING TO INITIAL CUTS DURING 1975. HOMAN SAYS STRULAK TOLD DELEGATES IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE WRONG TO OVERESTIMATE ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE CHRISTMAS RECESS, ADDING WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IS STILL FAR FROM SUFFICIENT; STRULAK TOLD NEWSMEN WAR-SAW DELEGATIONS ARE SATISFIED ATMOSPHERE HAS REMAINED BUSINESSLIKE AND FRIENDLY AND HOPE FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS. STRULAK ALSO SAW NATO PROPOSAL FOR COMMON CEILING AS REAL OBSTACLE, AND NATO OPPOSITION TO INCLUDING

AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN REDUCTIONS.

2D. THURSDAY WASHPOST VIENNA HOMAN REPORTS QUARLES TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE NATO WILL CONTINUE ITS FIRM OPPOSITION TO WARSAW EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SPEEDY REDUCTION OF NON-AMERICAN FORCES IN WESTERN EUROPE, QUARLES ADDING THAT WEST HAS TOUGHENED ITS BARGAINING POSITION AND SEES NO LIKELIHOOD IN NEAR FUTURE OF DISCUSSING REDUCTIONS IN WEST GERMAN AND OTHER ALLIED FORCES. HOMAN REPORTS QUARLES SAID VIEWPOINTS HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED IN SIX MONTHS OF NEGOTIATION, BUT NEITHER SIDE HAS MADE ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN POSITION; TALKS ARE NOT STALLED BUT HAVE FALLEN BEHIND SCHEDULE AND AGREEMENT ON FIRST NEGOTIATING STEP ON DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS MAY NOT BE COMPLETED IN SESSIONS BEGINNING MAY 6 BEFORE A SUMMER RECESS.

2E. THURSDAY BALTOPSUN AP REPORTS SCHLESINGER SAID YESTERDAY THAT PENTAGON IS CONSIDERING POSSIBLE CUTBACK IN SUPPORT TROOPS IN EUROPE BUT NO REDUCTION WHATSOEVER IN OUR COMBAT CAPABILITIES. SCHLESINGER DID NOT INDICATE HOW LARGE A CUTBACK IN SUPPORT TROOPS MIGHT BE MADE ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF REDUCTION OF POSSIBLY 30,000 MEN. THURSDAY

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